



THE BOROUGH OF WAREHAM.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

E.M. THOMAS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Meat & Foods Certificate.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Swanage Urban District Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Wareham.

Your Worship, Miss Plowman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1941. The report is limited to essential statistics, alterations and developments during the year.

The health of the district remained satisfactory, although the notification rates for Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Measles and Pneumonia were higher than those of the year 1940 and, with the exception of Whooping Cough, higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales 1941. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

Satisfactory progress was made under the Council's Scheme for immunising children against Diphtheria. At the end of the year 43.75% of the child population under 5 years of age and 50.00% of the child population 5 to 15 years of age were immunised. Few parents object to immunisation of their children and the coming year should show a marked increase in the percentage of the child population immunised.

Scabies and verminous conditions increased during the year due to war conditions. Arrangements have been made for the treatment of these conditions at the First Aid Post Masonic Hall in cases where home conditions are unsuitable. Where necessary cases occurring amongst evacuees are admitted to a Sick Bay for treatment.

Chemical analysis has shown that the town's water supply has been greatly improved in quality by the installation of the new treatment plant.

Mr. E.M. Thomas was appointed as your first full-time Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to succeed Mr. Bridle who for many years had been Sanitary Inspector part-time. Mr. Thomas commenced duties on the 1st October.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration during the year, and also to Mr. Bridle and Mr. Thomas for their co-operation and the efficient manner in which the duties of Sanitary Inspector have been carried out.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Worship, Miss Plowman and Gentlemen.
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 710 Acres,

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, 1941
 (b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rate 2,638

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the rate book 696
 Rateable value £14,590
 Sum represented by a penny rate £60-14-10

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births	) Legitimate	42	21	21	) Birth rate per 1,000) estimated resident) population	18.19
	) Illegitimate	6	3	3		
Still Births	) Legitimate	2	-	2	) Rate per 1,000 (live) and still) births..	40.00
	) Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Deaths		28	15	13	) Death rate per 1,000) estimated average) population	10.61

Births. For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality:-

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	) Legitimate	48	23	25
	) Illegitimate	6	3	3
Still Births	) Legitimate	2	-	2
	) Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No. 29. Puer: & post-abortion: sepsis...	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of infants one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	18.51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.85
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages)	-

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1941.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		
	Live Births	Still Births				Puer-peral Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	14.2	0.51	12.9	59	5.1	0.48	1.75	3.23
148 Smaller Towns estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	16.4	0.60	13.0	56	4.6	Not available		
WAREHAM BOROUGH.	18.19	0.75	10.61	18.51	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no alteration in the Health Services for the area.

SANITARY PROVISIONS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The work of installing the new treatment plant was completed during the year. Before this plant was installed the water contained iron in quantities sufficient to be detected by the palate and a deposit formed on standing. The reports of chemical analysis of five samples during the year show that iron was absent in three samples and in the remaining two samples the amount present was well below that permissible in a good drinking water. The Analyst's general report states that it is "a clear bright water soft in character, neutral in reaction, and free from any deposit on standing".

The plant provides for lime treatment, filtration and continuous chlorination. Samples are taken of the untreated water, treated water, from the supply reservoirs, and supply taps, for bacteriological examination at regular intervals. In only one instance was B. Coli detected in a sample, this was a sample of raw water from the New Well when B. Coli 1 per 100 ml. was reported.

Samples for Bacteriological Examination:-

	<u>New Well.</u>				<u>Old Well.</u>			
Raw Water	11		8	
Treated Water	38	
Total Samples	57	

Samples for Chemical Analysis:-

Full chemical analysis including metals	...	...	...	2
For metals only	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	5

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply	19
Drainage	58
Stables and Piggeries	3
Piced Fish Shops	24
Factories	23
Bakchouses	12
Public Conveniences	24
Rats and Mice	5
Schools	3
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	36
Drains Tested	21
Cesspools Cleansed	9
Air-Raid Shelters	24

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts.

Number of houses inspected	86
Visits paid to above houses	117

Vorminous Premises.

Number of houses inspected	3
Visits paid to above houses	12

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

No action was taken under the Housing Act, 1936, or The Public Health Acts.

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

No overcrowding of dwelling-houses was discovered during the year and no action was necessary under this part of the Housing Act.

Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... 20

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of infectious disease	19
Visits re disinfection	19

Meat and Food Inspection.

Visits to Meat Distributing Centre	48
Total meat inspection visits	48
Visits to:-	
Butchers	96
Fishmongers and Poulterers	24
Grocers	48
Cowsheds	36
Dairies and Milkshops	36
Food Preparing Premises	48
Restaurants	24
Total number of inspections	930

Notices Served.

Number of informal notices served	51
" " " " complied with	51
" " statutory " served	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The following are particulars with regard to Cowsheds and Dairies:-

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number of Persons on Register at end of 1941	5
" " Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1941	3
Number of Dairy Farms inspected during 1941	3
" " inspections during 1941	36
" " informal notices served	6
" " notices complied with	6

There are no milk shops in the Borough. No samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

There are no milk pastourising plants in the Borough and no graded milks are produced.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Number of slaughterhouses	3
" " visits to meat shops	48
" " " " places where food is prepared	48
" " premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food (Sect: 14 (1)(b). Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	7
Number of premises registered for the sale, manufacture, or storage of ice cream (Sect: 14 (1)(a). Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	10

Total amount of meat condemned during the year was 136 lbs.

All meat is sent into the Borough from a central slaughterhouse outside the district. Regular visits were made to the meat distributing centre.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	15	15	-
Diphtheria.	9	9	-
Pneumonia.	14	-	1
Measles.	103	-	-
Whooping Cough.	10	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-

Notification Rates per 1,000 Civil Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns	WAREHAM
Typhoid Fever	0.03	0.03	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.09	0.09	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.25	0.20	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.51	5.68
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.50	5.79
Diphtheria	1.25	1.19	3.41
Erysipelas	0.30	0.27	0.75
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	10.33	10.47	39.04
Pneumonia	1.25	1.04	5.30

The notification rates for Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles and Pneumonia were higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

There was a Measles epidemic, 103 cases being notified. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths from this disease.

Nine cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year; of these seven were inmates of the Public Assistance Institution and two were resident in the Borough. None of the cases were in persons who had been immunised against Diphtheria.

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

1. Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1941 ...	Age 5 years	
	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over, but under 15
	65	261
		326

11.	Under 5	Between 5 & 15
(A) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 31st December, 1941 ...	240	591
(B) Percentage of the child population shown under (A) considered immunised at 31st December, 1941 ...	43.75%	50.00%
(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement, and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.)		

No cases of Diphtheria occurred in persons who had been immunised.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act, 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1941:-

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...								
1	...								
5	...			1					
10	...	1				1			
15	...								
20	...								
25	...								
35	...	1							
45	...	1							
55	...								
65 and upwards	...						1		
Totals	...	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	-

Both persons who died from tuberculosis had previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1941:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
5	2	7	1	1	2	9

